

II. Collaboration

Fires in the wildland urban interface are influenced by fuels, weather and topography and not by property or jurisdictional boundaries. The fires that occurred during the 2003



Fire Siege are a perfect example. As described in “California Fire Siege 2003, The Story”, there were 14 major fires, 24 lives lost, 3,710 homes destroyed and 750,043 acres burned. Response included 1,572 engines, 136 aircraft and 14,027 personnel. The estimated cost of fire suppression was \$123,108,801. These fires burned through multiple jurisdictions and required suppression forces to be brought in from all over the western United States.

Fires of this magnitude require a great deal of cooperation, coordination and resources. The costs and losses from these events are absorbed by the individual home owner, communities, cities, counties and state governments. San Luis Obispo County has had large fire events in the past and as history has shown there will be large fire events here in the future. The purpose of the CDF/County Fire Management Plan is to reduce the costs and losses associated from these fires. Collaboration between agencies and citizens is an important part in this process. In San Luis Obispo County there are numerous agencies that have fire protection responsibilities:

- Atascadero State Hospital Fire
- Avila Beach Community Services District
- Cayucos Fire District
- California Department of Corrections Fire
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
- Cambria Community Services District
- Camp Roberts Fire Department
- City of Arroyo Grande Fire Department
- City of Atascadero Fire Department
- City of Morro Bay Fire Department
- City of Paso Robles Fire & Emergency Services
- City of Pismo Beach
- City of San Luis Obispo Fire Department
- City of Grover Beach Fire Department
- County of San Luis Obispo
- Hearst Castle Fire Department
- Los Osos Community Services District
- Oceano Community Services District Fire Department
- Templeton Community Services District
- United States Forest Service-Los Padres National Forest
- Bureau of Land Management-Bakersfield District

CDF/ San Luis Obispo County Fire staff will continue to collaborate with these agencies to develop a county wide focused effort at fire prevention education and project implementation to reduce the costs and losses associated with wildland fires.

Collaboration between agencies and the general public is also imperative. CDF/County Fire personnel have been working with residents to educate them on fire prevention measures aimed at improving the survivability of their homes. During the department's yearly inspection program, firefighters review the homeowner's compliance with wildland urban interface codes and give corrective notices and make recommendations where there are deficiencies. CDF/County Fire also participates in the San Luis Obispo



County Community FireSafe Council (SLOFSC). The primary objective of the council is to provide education, exchange of information and foster fire prevention and fire safety within the county of San Luis Obispo. The council is made up of a board of directors representing the following interest groups:

- American Red Cross
- Air Pollution Control District
- Bureau of Land Management
- Cal Poly State University
- California State Parks
- County Board of Realtors
- County Board of Supervisors
- County Cattleman's Association
- CDF/SLO County Fire
- Environmental/Cambria Greenspace
- Fire Department Reps
- Fire Chief's Association
- U.S. Forest Service
- Insurance Industries
- Public Utilities/PG&E
- SLO County Farm Bureau
- Range Improvement Association
- U.C. Cooperative Extension